

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 IO-13 AGRE-00
/111 W

-----074509 190804Z/11

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5253

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1953

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, UNCTAD, GATT, MTN, CM, US
SUBJ: FRANK TALKS WITH GURC FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DAR ES SALAAM AND LUSAKA 28 MAR 78,
REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1569

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, UNCTAD, GATT, MTN, CM, US
SUBJ: FRANK TALKS WITH GURC FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE

1. SUMMARY: DURING WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA CHIEFS OF MISSION ECONOMIC SEMINAR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA AND MINISTER OF FIANANCE YONDO ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING COMMON FUND, MTN, ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY AND UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. ACTION
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REQUESTED: IN RESPONSE TO GURC REQUEST PLEASE POUCH COPIES OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY AND LATEST US POSITION ON COMMON FUND FOR TRANSMITTAL TO MINISTER OF FINANCE. END SUMMARY

2. IN COMPANY OF AMBASSADOR AND DCM, DAS FRANK HAD ONE HOUR CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA AND TWO AND A QUARTER HOUR INTERVIEW WITH FINANCE MINISTER YONDO. BOTH CON-

VERSATIONS PROVIDED OCCASION FOR DAS FRANK TO COVER ALL POINTS MENTIONED IN SUMMARY, ALTHOUGH IN MUCH GREATER DETAIL WITH YONDO. MEETING WITH KEUTCHA LARGELY PRO-FORMA, BUT PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS TO HENRY FOSSUNG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VINCENT OWONA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR EUROPEAN, AMERICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE EMBASSY'S WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS ON THESE SUBJECTS. FOREIGN MINISTER

WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES AND FELT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT U.S. EXPLAIN ITS POSITION ON UP-COMING NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW FAR IT IS PREPARED TO GO IN MEETING DEMANDS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. KEUTCHA WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE MTN AND REQUESTED HIS SUB-ORDINATES TO TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE THREE TYPES OF NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE(INDUSTRIAL, TROPICAL AND AGRICULTUREAL PRODUCTS). HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT CAMEROON WAS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF TWO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: WRAPPER TOBACCO WITHOUT STEMS (TSUS 170.10) AND FILLER TOBACCO MIXED WITH WRAPPER (TSUS 170.20). THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THAT CAMEROONIAN EMBASSY BRUSSELS BE INFORMED SINCE THEY RESPONSIBLE FOR GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

3. CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE YONDO, WHO LED CAMEROON DELEGATION TO CIEC, WAS MUCH MORE DETAILED. BOTH PARTIED INDICATED THEY WERE SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERSONALLY, SINCE OTHER INTERESTED OFFICES FROM RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT REPRESENTED. YONDO ASKED IF ALL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS HAD TO BE NEGOTIATED BEFORE ESTABLISHING COMMON FUND. DAS FRANK RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WERE ENOUGH AGREEMENTS WITH COFFEE, COCOA, TIN, AND SUGAR TO START COMMON FUND AND OTHERES COULD BE ADDED AS AGREEMENTS REACHED. YONDO COMMENTED THAT A MAJOR CONCERN OF G-77 WAS THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUND AFTER COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME, AND HE FELT PRESENT U.S. POSITION REPRESENTED PROGRESS. YONDO WONDERED IF U.S. WILLING MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO GET FUND STARTED (HE MENTIONED \$6 MILLION, WHICH SEEMED QUITE LOW). FRANK SAID U.S. WILLING CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION, DEPENDING ON USES. FRANK SAID HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT COMMON FUND ESTABLISH CREDIT WORTHINESS IN ORDER TO BORROW ON PRIVATE MARKET. YONDO POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFI'S) DO NOT HAVE ULIMITED RESOURCES AND THEREFORE NOT PRESENTLY STRUCTURED TO TAKE OVER FUNCTIONS PROPOSED FOR SECOND WINDOW. HE SAID THAT THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PLANNED TO MEET IN LIBREVILLE TO DISCUSS MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES. FRANK SAID USG ALSO INTERESTED IN INCREASING ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFI'S AND WAS REQUESTING INCREASE FROM \$2 BILLION IN 1977 TO \$5 BILLION IN 79. TO ADD SECOND WINDOW

WOULD ONLY HURT OUR CHANCES WITH CONGRESS IN GAINING AUGMENTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFI'S.

4. YONDO INDICATED HS MUST DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN ECONOMY AND PLAN, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND G-77 BEFORE GIVING OFFICIAL RESPONSE. HE SAID WE COULD NOT HAVE AN INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM WITHOUT A COMMON FUND (CF). AT PARIS THERE WAS COMMON DESIRE TO SET UP CF, BUT PROBLEMS EMERGED AT GENEVA MEETING OF CF. HE PLEASED US THINKING STILL EVOLVING AND BELIEVES CONTINUING DIALOGUE SUCH AS THIS ONE BEST METHOD FOR ARRIVING AT AGREEMENT. HE APPEALED DAS FRANK TO TALK TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING. HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS STUDY ANY AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION ON U.S. POSITION.

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5. WHEN ASKED AS TO WHEN DISCUSSIONS COMMON FUND AND N/S ISSUES WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN AFRICAN GROUP OR G-77, YONDO OBSERVED THAT FIRST OPPORTUNITY WOULD BE GROUP OF 24 MEETING IN MEXICO CITY APRIL 27-28, THEN JULY IN ABIDJAN AT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING AND FINALLY AT SEPTEMBER IMF WASHINGTON MEETING.

6. ON COCOA AGREEMENT, YONDO SAID IT WOULD BE GREAT ADVANCE IF U.S. COULD JOIN, ESPECIALLY FROM BUDGETARY POINT OF VIEW. HE WAS HAPPY TO LEARN U.S. WILLING ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH IT IS NECESSITY TO STABILIZE MARKET, PROBLEM FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRY POINT OF VIEW OCCURS WHEN PRICES ARE LOW. HE WISHED PURSUE MTN THROUGH CAMEROON BRUSSELS EMBASSY. HE ALSO WISHED HAVE TEXT ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY.

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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R 181600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5256

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1953

FOLLOWING SENT DAR ES SALAAM AND LUSAKA MAR 28, 1978,
REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE:

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7. DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED AROUND COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF CAMEROONIAN PARTICIPATION IN NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. YONDO LED CAMEROON CIEC DELEGATION AND IS PRESIDENT IBRD-IMF AFRICAN GROUP. HOWEVER, MINISTER ECONOMY AND PLAN RESPONSIBLE FOR UNCTAD AND MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS PARTICIPATES NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. YONDO ADMITTED THAT OVER COMPARTMENTALIZATION PUTS CAMEROON AND OTHER MODERATE COUNTRIES AT DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS RADICAL COUNTRIES WITH INTEGRATED DELEGATIONS ATTENDING ALL MEETINGS. RADICALS OFTEN BETTER PREPARED TO RAM THROUGH EXTREME PROPOSALS WHICH, WHEN ADOPTED BY G-77 IN CAUCUS, BECOME BINDING POSITIONS IN CONVERENCE DISCUSSIONS. CONVERENCE RESULTS ARE THUS OFTEN DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE START DUE TO LACK OF ROOM TO NEGOTIATE. YONDO ADMITTED MODERATES NEEDED TO BETTER ORGANIZE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN THESE MEETINGS.

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8. YONDO INQUIRED ABOUT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CIEC AGREED UPON DECADE OF TRANSPORT UN SECTY GEN SUPPOSED TO SCHEDULE MEETING TO BE HELD IN AFRICA. DAS SAID THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE SUBJECT TO BRING UP AT FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE SCHEDULED NEW YORK IN MAY. DAS SAID US ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MEETING AND HOPED THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WOULD PROVIDE SAME TYPE OF FORUM AS CIEC TO CARRY ON DIALOGUE. YONDO OBSERVED THAT REDUCTION OF GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS LONG PROCESS AND DIALOGUE NECESSARY TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT: VISIT PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY DAS TO CONVEY DIRECTLY HIS VIEWS ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE BELIEVE AT LEAST IN CASE OF CAMEROON (AND SUSPECT THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF OTHER MODERATE LDC GOVERNMENTS) THAT GURC IS WILLING TO ENTER INTO NON-POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. MOREOVER GURC POSITION IS FLEXIBLE, AND IT IS WILLING TO

MAKE CONCESSIONS. IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE THAT GURC COULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO U.S. IN G-77 CAUCUSES IF IT WERE MADE AWARE WELL IN ADVANCE OF OUR POSITIONS. FOR THE PRESENT IT IS CLEAR THAT GURC WOULD WELCOME MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE ITSELF FOR UP-COMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. IT WAS VIRTUALLY UNAWARE OF OPPORTUNITIES MTN NEGOTIATIONS. OUR INFO THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN LARGELY LIMITED TO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND NON-TARRIF REDUCTIONS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO ON OTHER AREAS SUCH AS TROPICAL AND AGRI-CULTURE PRODUCTS WHERE GURC MIGHT BENEFIT FROM TARRIF REDUCTIONS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DRAFT TEXT ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY AND BRIEFING MATERIALS ON COMMON FUND, AS WELL AS ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIALS DEPARTMENT MIGHT BELIEVE USEFUL TO BETTER INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT ON USG POSITIONS. FRENCH TEXTS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

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10. ABOVE DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION DAS FRANK, WHO SHOULD FEEL FREE MAKE ANY CHANGES HE WISHES.

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